Under Section 248 of the Municipal Regulation, the Government had the power to vary or set aside such resolutions. The exact significance of the resolutions could be known to the Government only through complaints, if any, preferred by rate-payers. The member himself had complained about certain proceedings of the Kottayam Municipal Council.

There were no bye-laws for the guidance of the Municipal Council, Kottayam, in holding meetings and conducting proceedings. Meetings were often held at the will and pleasure of the presidents. Many taxes had been imposed by the several Municipal Councils, but no Council had framed bye-laws for the levy and collection of all such taxes. Several sets of bye-laws had yet to be issued under Sections 254 of the Municipal Regulation. The provisions in the Account Code about maintenance of Municipal accounts were incomplete and not clear. Each Council had prescribed its own forms of accounts and registers. There were no fixed rules for the collection of taxes and for appointing or punishing Municipal employès. As an instance, the member said that the Sanitary Inspector, Kottayam, was suspended, for one year. in 1100 and an unqualified hand was appointed instead. When the Government vetoed the appointment, the Prsident recommended that the man already appointed should be given a place according to his qualifications. That led to a long correspondence. Similarly, the Typist and Vital Statistics clerk was suspended for six months on a flimsy ground. The suspension was cancelled by the Government with the result, the Municipal Council had to bear the extra cost involved in appointing a substitute during the suspension period.

When Vice-Presidents held charge of the Councils during the absence of the Presidents, they acted against the opinion of the latter; and in such cases, it was difficult to decide whose opinion should prevail. The Vice-Prsident of the Kottayam Council, for instance, had punished the employés during the absence of the President who, after his return, cancelled such punishments. Such irresponsible actions made appointments under Municipal Councils insecure. In view to remedy such a state of affairs, the pensionable officers of the superior service in the Municipal Councils should be under the control of a single officer and their places should be made interchangeable.

In conclusion, the member once more pleaded for the appointment of a Superintendent of Municipalities in view to co-ordinate the work of the several Councils and bring uniformity of procedure and to advise the Councils whenever necessary. If such an officer could not be appointed, a committee of officials and non-officials should be constituted to enquire into and report on the existing working of the several Municipal Councils.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Mathu Matthew, you have already heard the observations I made about the proposed appointment of an officer for municipalities, and I need only add now that this can be taken up, if at all, only after the Village Panchayat Regulation comes into operation.

153. Unemployment.

MR. AIYAPPAN PILLAI MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Member, Kalkulam taluk, Group I*) said that his object was to bring to the notice of the Government the various matters relating to unemployment in the State, especially as the Government had appointed a committee to enquire into the state of unemployment in Travancore and suggest remedial measures. It was regrettable to note that the Director of Agriculture was not appointed as one of the members of the committee. The questionnaire published by the committee chiefly related only to the unemployment among the educated classes but not among others although the resolution advocating the appointment of the committee passed by the Legislative Council and accepted by the Government related to unemployment in general. The committee should therefore be asked to pursue their work in accordance with the resolution. Secondly, the Director of Industries was a member of the committee while the Director of Agriculture was not. That was a defect in its constitution and should be remedied at once.

An economic survey was a preliminary to the enquiry into the causes and the remedies for unemployment. The several questions included in the questionnaire already published did not show that the committee wanted to ascertain the economic

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condition of the subjects of the State. It was necessary to know whether, with the increase in the daily wants of the people, their income was also increasing. If not, the reasons therefor should be ascertained. Similarly, if the income was proportionately increasing with the wants, the question as to how far the increase in the income was helpful to root out unemployment should be known. The Government had been increasing the burden of taxation without actually ascertaining the financial condition of the people and no statistics were available for the purpose. The Government were not also trying to compile any such statistics. The need for an economic survey had been urged upon the Government from the second session of the Assembly onwards. As an unemployment committee had been appointed, it would be well if an economic survey be also conducted.

Passing on to the causes of unemployment among the agriculturists, the member said that, on an average, only 56 cents of arable land were available per head of the population. Many Travancoreans had no lands of their own. In view to conserve lands for the ever-increasing population of the State, the Government had passed a rule that non-Travancoreans should obtain the previous sanction of the Government for the registry of lands in their names. The rule was since abrogated and large extents of land were registered in favour of non-Travancoreans. That policy increased unemployment among the agriculturists. In view to put a stop to the free acquisition of large extents of land by the rich, the Government put a restraint on such acquisition by ruling that not more than 10 acres of land should be assigned to a single individual at the same time. That policy too had been changed and consequently unemployment was increasing. To avert the contingency of land becoming short for future generations, the Government should follow a fixed policy of distributing land to the landless people of the State. Facilities should also be afforded for the development of agriculture. The chief means for such development was the restoration and proper maintenance of minor irrigation works or the opening of canals for channel irrigation. The Government were not paying adequate attention in those directions. In South Travancore, many lands were damaged by floods and others were suffering from scarcity of water. When agriculture ceased to be paying, agriculturists took to other occupations after leasing out their lands. That was another reason for the existence of unemployment among agriculturists. A portion of the surplus in the State coffers should be set apart for reproductive works on irrigation.

Formerly, agriculturists, besides pursuing their main occupation, were also pursuing secondary occupations such as cattle-breeding and spinning. Those had been abandoned and people were hunting after salaried service. The facts were referred to in the questionnaire framed by the Unemployment Committee. But a report submitted on the basis of the replies received would not be comprehensive and satisfactory. The committee should take the evidence of people in the mofussil, enquire into the reasons, if any, for the abandonment of their original occupations and the kinds of occupations that were thus abandoned. A programme of work should be prepared by the Government for the purpose.

The President of the committee could not bestow his whole time to his work on the committee and therefore could not do full justice to the responsibility entrusted to him. It would be well if he be detailed for the work on the committee alone till its report was submitted.

154. Unemployment.

MR. K. K. NARAYANAN NAIR (*Member, Tiruvalla taluk*) in thanking the Government for constituting the Unemployment Committee referred to some of the causes of unemployment and offered some suggestions for solving that problem in the State. Travancore was mainly an agricultural country and more than 7,00,000 acres of land had been brought under the plough, yielding an annual output of nearly 2¼ lakhs of tons of paddy. Judged from those figures, the average quantity of rice per head of population was much less than half a *nali* a day.

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